AUSTEN • D'ANDA
ACTION
COMICS
No. 820
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WAIL OF THE BANSHEE!
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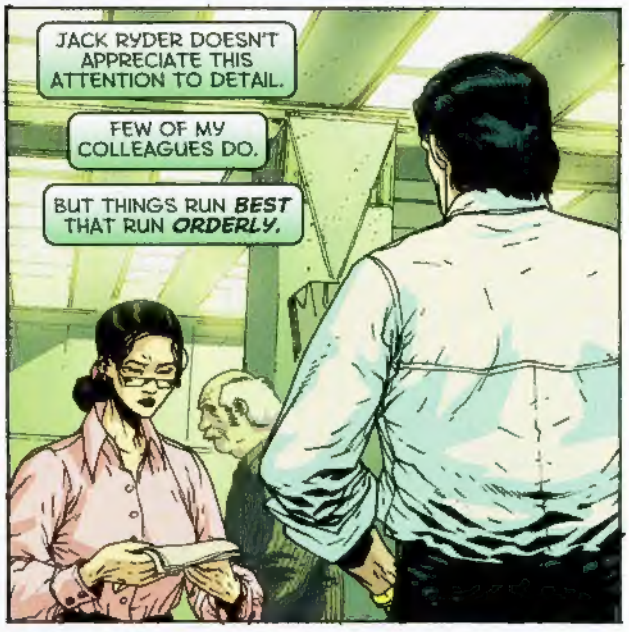
I LIKE THINGS TO BE NEAT. THAT'S WHY I PREFER *STAPLES*.

PAPER CLIPS HOLD *LOOSELY*, PAPERS SLIP FREE--

--AND IT BECOMES A *MESS*.
EDITORIAL
PROOFREADING & VP/GE APPROVAL:
PRE-PRESS:


JACK RYDER DOESN'T APPRECIATE THIS ATTENTION TO DETAIL.
FEW OF MY COLLEAGUES DO.
BUT THINGS RUN *BEST* THAT RUN *ORDERLY*.

THIS IS A WELL-ESTABLISHED FACT.

NNNHH...
AND JACK IS *DANGEROUSLY* CLOSE TO TAKING THE PAGES AWAY AND CIRCULATING *IMPERFECTION*.

I CAN'T ALLOW THAT.
MMM. WAIT.
WAIT, WAIT A SECOND.
ONE OF THE PAGES IS A LITTLE OFF, HERE--
OY, ARTEMISIA...
I PREFERRED THE CITY WHEN IT WAS RUN BY THE FUTURISTIC TECH.
YOU COULD EAT OFF THE SIDEWALKS THEN.
NOT THAT YOU'D WANT TO. THEY'RE STILL SIDEWALKS.
BUT THE CLEANLINESS WAS INVITING.
THE SENSE OF ORDER MORE COMPLETE.
NOT THAT IT WAS PERFECT, BUT CERTAINLY PREFERABLE.
ANYTHING WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO THINGS AS THEY ARE NOW.
IT'S PRACTICALLY GOTHAM CITY, THINGS HAVE BECOME SO BLEAK AND DIRTY.

GET AWAY FROM HERE, YOU LITTLE BEGGARS. AND STOP THROWING YOUR FILTH IN FRONT OF MY HOME.
COME ON, KIDS. LET'S GET AWAY FROM THE MEAN LADY.

YEAH, LET'S GET AWAY FROM THE MEAN LADY.
MOMMY, WHY IS SHE SO MEAN?

I DON'T KNOW, HONEY. SOME PEOPLE JUST ARE.
GANGS OF HOODLUMS HANG OUT IN OUR STREETS, HARASSING INNOCENT PEOPLE AND MAKING THEIR LIVES HELL.

YOU JUST DON'T FEEL SAFE ANYMORE IN THIS WORLD.
OH, FOR--

LACY! HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD YOU, THE THIRD HOOK IS YOURS.
I -- USE THE FIRST HOOK -- THEN THERE'S A SPACE -- THEN YOUR HOOK--

I'M TIRED OF YOU, LACY! ARTEMISIA WILL BE A MORE WILLING HOST!
WHAT? LACY?

WAIL of the BANSHEE
AAAAH!
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AAAHGOD, NOOOOOOO!
THWICK
PLEASEHELPMEEEE!
HGGGGGMMMM!
EEEEEyAAAAAAAAAHH

SO, I'M NOT SURE WHY HE DID IT. HE JUST FELT THE NEED TO BE IN THE ACTION, I SUPPOSE, AND--
--YOU KNOW, IT GOT HIM KILLED.
ON THE NEWS, IT LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE MAKING HIM GO OUT THERE, MISTER RYDER--
--IN THE MIDDLE OF ALL THEM FIGHTIN' SUPER HEROES, AND--
SUPER "VILLAINS."
THEY WERE SUPER -- VILLAINS, AND YEAH, I WAS ENCOURAGING HIM, SOMEWHAT, BUT--
YOU SEE, YOUR SON -- JERMAINE -- HE WAS A REAL GO-GETTER, AND HE--
YOU KNEW HIM WELL?
JUST MET HIM THAT MORNING.
BUT, YOU KNOW, I GOT A GOOD SENSE OF THE MAN IN THOSE FEW HOURS WE WERE TOGETHER AND I COULD TELL, YOU KNOW--
--THAT EVEN THOUGH HE CAME FROM A CRAPPY LITTLE NEIGHBORHOOD LIKE THIS--
--HE HAD REAL FIRE, AND MAYBE A -- A LITTLE BIT OF RECKLESSNESS THAT -- YOU KNOW -- COULD GET HIM KILLED.
AND IT DID.
WHY DID YOU COME HERE, MISTER RYDER?
UM...
TO MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER?

PERFECT.
SHE IS/I AM THE PERFECT HOST.
SHE CRAVES/I CRAVE NEATNESS AND ORDER IN OUR UNIVERSE.
SHE DESIRES/I DESIRE DEATH/FEAR TO SUSTAIN HER/ME.
PEOPLE CREATE CHAOS AND DISORDER.
PEOPLE ARE A SOURCE OF FEAR, PARTICULARLY AS THEY DIE.
TWO GOALS.
ONE COMMON OBJECTIVE.
HEY, GREAT COSTUME, LADY.
HOW ABOUT YOU AND ME GET TOGETHER AND RAISE EACH OTHER'S SPIRITS?
HA! GOOD ONE.
OKAY.
EVERYONE DIES.

HHNGGG!
EVERYONE DIES AFRAID.
THWICK
HEY!
HEY LADY, WHAT ARE YOU DOIN'?!
ORDER AND UNITY.
HCK!

FEAR AND DEATH.
THWICK
FOOD AND NOURISHMENT.
AAAAAHHHH!
?!
COOK ME A FEAR.
FEED ME YOUR TERRORS.
DEAR GOD--

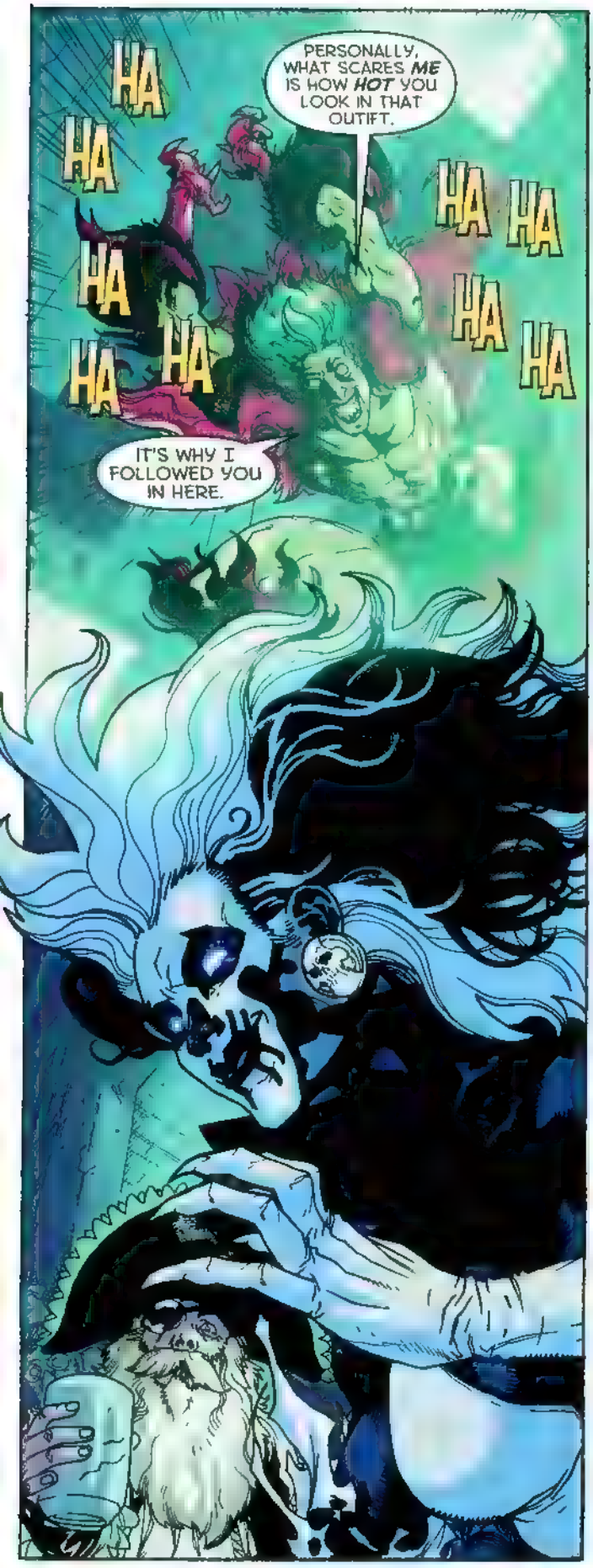
GIVE ME A NIGHTMARE TO SAVOR.

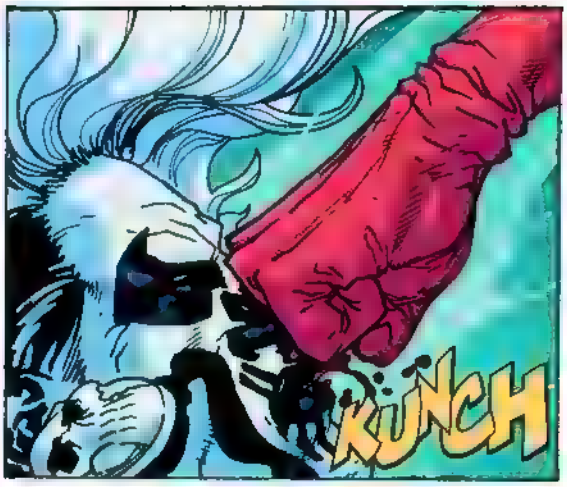
I'LL G.VE YOU ONE IF YOU DON'T LET HER GO, BANSHEE
SUPERMAN.
I/SHE KNOWS YOU. WE HAVE MET BEFORE IN A PREVIOUS INCARNATION.
ONLY ONE THING FRIGHTENS YOU
FAILING THEM!
WHICH IS WHY I DON'T DO IT VERY OFTEN
.ET HER GO, OR I'LL POP YOUR HEAD OFF ITS NECK.
HRRK!
YOU TEASE

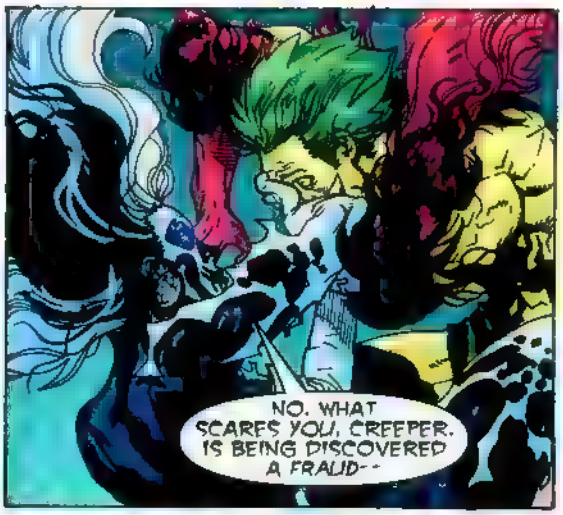
I DO NOT.
OOOOH. YOU'RE SWEATING LITTLE AFRAIDY APPETIZERS.
LET'S START THE MAIN COURSE.
SLURP
AAAAAAH!
MMMMMMMM... YOU'RE BOTH SO AFRAID SHE'LL DIE--
--AND IT'S LIKE ICE--
--CREAM
SCRM

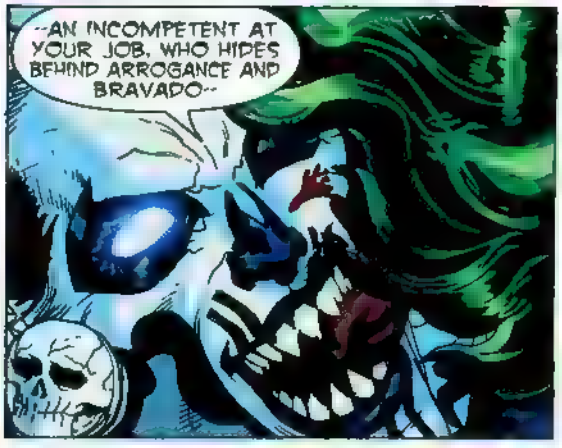
YOU ALL RIGHT, MISS?
OHGODSHEWAS GOINGTOKILLMEAND IWASSOAFRAID!WHAT IFSHEHAD?!WHATIF SHEHAD?!
IT'S OKAY.
YOU'RE OKAY, NOW
PLEASE DON'TPUTMEDOWN! PLEASEDON'TPUT MEDOWN!
PLEASEPLEASE PLEASEDON'TPUTME DOWN!
BUT I HAVE TO BEFORE SHE--
ESCAPES.

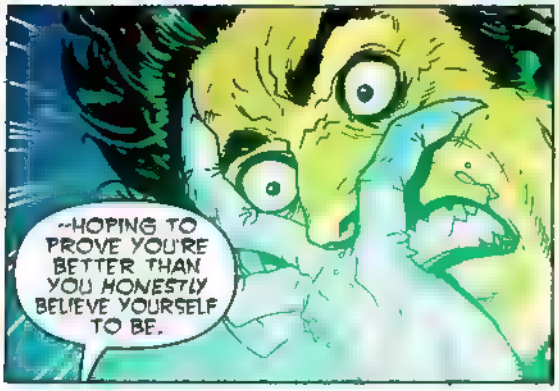
GOD. THIS PLACE IS FILTHY AND DISGUSTING. AND FULL OF PEOPLE...
HOW PERFECT.
CAN I HAVE EVERYONE'S ATTENTION?!
I NEED EVERYONE TO FOCUS ON ME FOR A MOMENT. IF YOU PLEASE!
OR EVEN IF YOU DON'T PLEASE
NOW--
--I WANT YOU ALL TO THINK OF SOMETHING THAT SCARES YOU.


HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
PERSONALLY, WHAT SCARES *ME* IS HOW *HOT* YOU LOOK IN THAT OUTFIT.
IT'S WHY I FOLLOWED YOU IN HERE.


KUNCH


NO. WHAT SCARES *YOU*, CREEPER. IS BEING DISCOVERED A FRAUD--

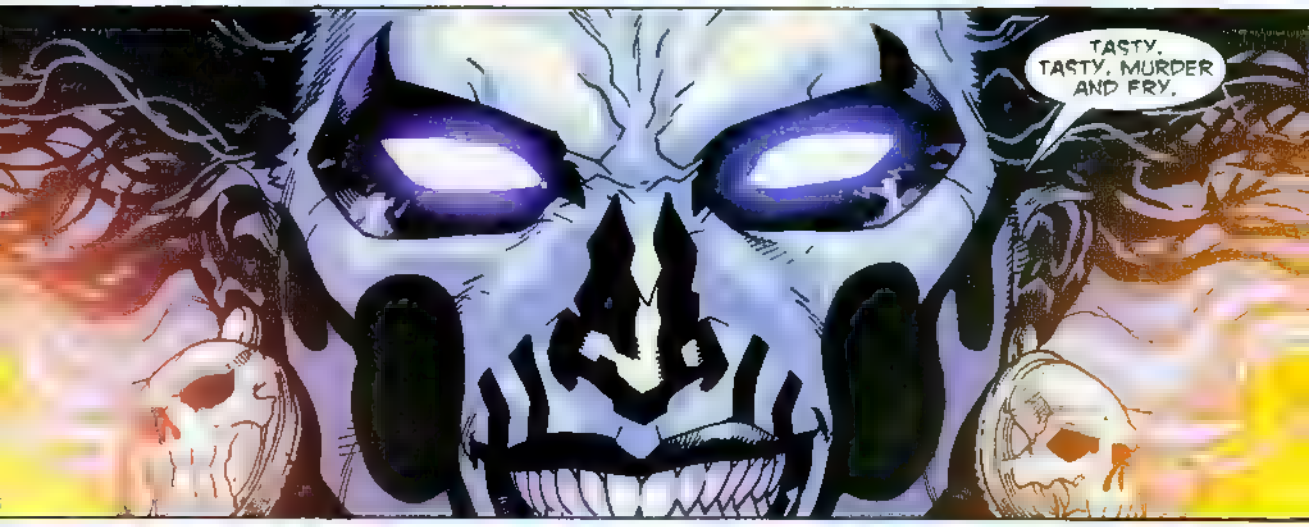

--AN INCOMPETENT AT YOUR JOB, WHO HIDES BEHIND ARROGANCE AND BRAVADO--


--HOPING TO PROVE YOU'RE BETTER THAN YOU *HONESTLY* BELIEVE YOURSELF TO BE.

WHAT IS SHE DOING?
IS THIS SOME KIND OF SHOW?
YEEEEEEES. NOW. I CAN TASTE THE FEAR ALL OVER YOU.
FIGHT IT ALL YOU WANT...
...IT ONLY INCREASES THE FLAVOR.
AAAAAAHHHH...
AND THE REST OF YOU--
SMALL ROOM--
--DIFFICULT TO BREATHE--
--VERY CROWDED WITH FEW EXITS--
AAAAAHHH!!
FWOOOMF
AAAHAAAHAHHAAAHH NOOOOOOO...

WHEN IS A NEWSMAN NOT A NEWSMAN?
WHEN HE'S A PART OF THE STORY.
ARE YOU A NEWSMAN? OR A PART OF THE STORY?
JACK RYDER?
OR CREEPER?
OBSERVER? PARTICIPANT?
SCRIBE? HERO?
CREEPER OR CREEPER?
HELP THEM LIVE?
WATCH THEM DIE?
WATCH THEM DIE
WATCH THEM DIE.
NNOOOOO!

WHERE ARE THE SPRINKLERS?!
FIRE!
LET ME OUT!
HELP ME, PLEASE!
MOVE, MOVE, MOVE!


TASTY. TASTY. MURDER AND FRY.

ROAST ALL THE PEOPLE AND WATCH THEM DIE!
SHE'S CRAZY!
AAAH!
SOMEBODY HELP US!

EXIT THIS WAY, PEOPLE.
THROOM

NOOOOO!!
SCHLICK KRIK
KRAK
SORRY, CREEPER. I HAD TO STOP HER AND THE FIRE, AND THERE WASN'T TIME TO LET YOU GET FREE.
BUT DON'T WORRY, ALL RIGHT? I'LL GET YOU OUT OF THERE IN A SECOND, AND YOU'LL NEVER EVEN KNOW IT HAPPENED.
THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF.

NOTHING -- TO BE AFRAID OF.
AHUUUH. AHUUN-HUNH. -:COUGH:-
NOTHING-- --TO BE AFRAID OF--
EPILOGUE.
COME ON, BINKY, YOU STUPID CAT! GET DOWN FROM THERE!
MOM'S GONNA HAVE A FIT!
HOW INTRIGUING. I AM FILLED WITH POSITIVE SENSATIONS.
ENDORPHINS?
PERHAPS A SIDE EFFECT OF EMOTIONS?

IS THIS WHAT ONE EXPERIENCES WHEN ONE DOES GOOD DEEDS?
WHOA. YOU'RE DOOMSDAY.
YOU'RE THE GUY WHO KILLED SUPERMAN THAT TIME.
INDEED I AM.
CHOOM
HMMM.
ODDLY, THERE IS NOT A RUSH OF POSITIVE SENSATIONS WITH YOUR DEATH. HOW INTRIGUING.
I SHALL HAVE TO INVESTIGATE THIS PHENOMENON FURTHER.
The End For Now